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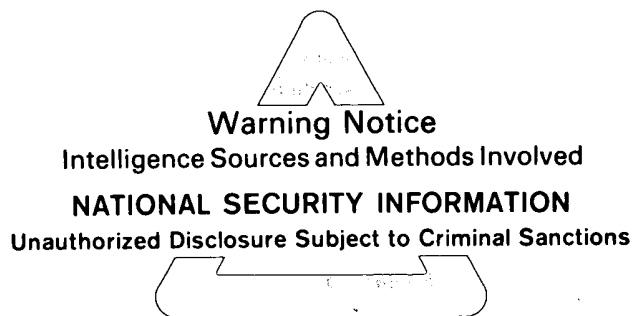
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CONTROL NO. Z-15194/82
 NPIC/IEG (04/82)
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NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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Attachment to Z-15194/82

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NPIC/IEG (4/82)

6 APRIL 1982

PROBABLE BMD-20 ROCKET LAUNCHER
BAICHENG MUNITIONS TEST COMPLEX, CHINA

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: FIRST IDENTIFICATION OF PROBABLE BMD-20, LARGE CALIBRE (200MM), ROCKET SYSTEM IN CHINA.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: A PROBABLE BMD-20 ROCKET LAUNCHER (RL) WAS BEING ON/OFF LOADED AT THE RAIL TRANSSHIPMENT AREA OF THE BAICHENG MUNITIONS TEST COMPLEX IN SHENYANG MILITARY REGION. THIS IS THE FIRST KNOWN SIGHTING OF THIS WEAPON SYSTEM IN CHINA, AND MAY INDICATE THAT THE CHINESE INTEND TO EXPAND THEIR PRESENT MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER (MRL) FORCE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE CALIBRE TACTICAL ROCKET SYSTEM. DEPLOYMENT OF THE BMD-20, WHICH USES A 200MM ROCKET WITH A RANGE OF 19.5 KM, WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE CAPABILITY AND RANGE OF CHINA'S MRL FORCE. THE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED BM-14/19 SYSTEM HAS A MAXIMUM RANGE OF 9.8 KM.

(S/D) THE PRESENCE OF THIS SYSTEM COMBINED WITH THE EXISTENCE OF A CHINESE VERSION BM-21 122MM ROCKET LAUNCHER, RANGE 20.5 KM, IS A STRONG INDICATION THAT THE CHINESE ARE PUSHING TO UPGRADE THIS ARM OF THE PLA GROUND FORCES.

(S/D) ANALYSTS COMMENTS: IN DECEMBER 1978, A LARGE CALIBRE TRACKED MRL SYSTEM WAS IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME AT BAICHENG MUNITIONS TEST COMPLEX UNDERGOING TESTING. IF THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A TACTICAL ROCKET SYSTEM, THE CHINESE MAY HAVE DISCONTINUED DEVELOPMENT/TESTING. IN THAT CASE, THE INTRODUCTION OF AN OLD BUT PROVEN SYSTEM, AVAILABLE THROUGH IRAQ OR NORTH KOREA, WOULD SERVE AS AN INTERIM REPLACEMENT UNTIL A NEW SYSTEM IS DEVELOPED.

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3. (S) COORDINATES 45-44-27N 122-39-46E

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